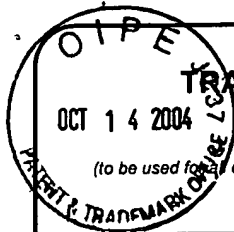


IFW

PTO/SB/21 (04-04)



TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/678,017
	Filing Date	October 1, 2003
	First Named Inventor	Kenji Kataoka
	Art Unit	3621
	Examiner Name	Unassigned
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	Attorney Docket Number	16869P-095500US

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Technology Center (TC) <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): USPTO form SB08A (one page), copy of one cited reference, Return Postcard
Remarks: The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account 20-1430.		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT		
Firm or Individual name	Townsend and Townsend and Crew LLP	
	Steven Cahill	Reg. No. 44,578
Signature	<i>Steven Cahill</i>	
Date	10/11/04	

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING			
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.			
Typed or printed name	Roger Hylton		
Signature	<i>[Signature]</i>	Date	OCT 11, 2004



PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: 16869P-095500US
Client Reference No.: 340201074

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Kenji Kataoka et al.

Application No.: 10/678,017

Filed: October 1, 2003

For: ENGINEER ASSIGNMENT METHOD

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: 3621

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The reference cited on attached form PTO/SB/08A is being called to the attention of the Examiner. A copy of the reference is enclosed. It is respectfully requested that the cited reference be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and the reference be made of record therein and appear among the "references cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

As provided for by 37 CFR §1.97(g) and (h), no inference should be made that the information and references cited are prior art merely because they are in this statement and no representation is being made that a search has been conducted or that this statement encompasses all the possible relevant information.

Applicant believes that no fee is required for submission of this statement. However, if a fee is required, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fee from the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 20-1430. Please deduct any additional fees from, or credit any overpayment to, the above-noted Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Cahill
Reg. No. 44,578

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400
Fax: 650-326-2422
SJC:rmh
60330031 v1



PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)		Complete if Known			
		Application Number	10/678,017		
		Filing Date	October 1, 2003		
		First Named Inventor	Kenji Kataoka		
		Art Unit	3621		
		Examiner Name	Unassigned		
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	16869P-095500US

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS+					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number Kind Code ² (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	† ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	1	JP	11-335020	A	12-07-1999	Mitsubishi Electric		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Kind Codes of U.S. Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.
60330031 v1